
JOURNAL OF THE
BARBER COIN COLLECTORS' SOCIETY

Volume 9, #1

Spring 1998



**Off-Center
Barber
Quarter**

**from
Frank Leone**





Let us be your source for Certified Barbers & other collector coins...

Send or call to join our regular mailing list of certified U.S. coins. We have a better selection of the tough Barber dates you need than anyone else in the country! You'll also find a wide selection of quality coins ranging from Indian Cents to Commems – at very competitive prices.

Please check us out.

***Sell us your coins for
top dollar!***

We are also active buyers of all certified U.S. coins – as well as complete collections (certified or not). Call us on our toll-free line and speak to Dave or John. Or you can simply ship to us for our immediate review and offer.

Sign up for our new “e-listings”! Send us your e-mail address to: rarecoin@cris.com and you'll get our coin listings first!



David Lawrence
r a r e c o i n s

P.O. Box 64844 • Virginia Beach, VA 23467

(800) 776-0560

Local: 757-424-0560/ Fax: 757-424-2363

BCCS CHARTER MEMBER #2

JOURNAL OF THE
BARBER COIN COLLECTORS' SOCIETY

Published quarterly. Dedicated to bringing together people with similar interests in Barber Coinage for the purpose of advancing appreciation of this series.

OFFICERS

- Philip Carrigan *President*
Russell Easterbrooks *Editor, BCCS Journal*
Paul Reuter *Secretary/Treasurer*
Tom Mulvaney *Photographer*
Regular Contributing Editor *Jack White and Chris Weeks*
-

ADDRESSES

For articles, submitting coins to be photographed, information for Barber Bits, Letters to the Editor, advertisement, layouts, etc.: Russell Easterbrooks, 40 Mountain Road, Worcester, VT 05682.

For membership dues (\$15.00 per year), and information about the BCCS, back issues of the BCCS Journal (\$3.00 each): Paul Reuter, 415 Ellen Drive, Brookhaven, MS 39601.

For Society issues in general, etc.: Phil Carrigan, 1105 N. Crescent Court, Round Lake, IL 60073, Tel. 847-937-5129 day, 847-546-5609 evening, 847-938-2510 fax, Email: philip.carrigan@abbott.com

CONTENTS

❖ BCCS President’s Message	2
❖ From the Editor	3
❖ The Quarter Finals by Chip Dean	4
❖ My Collecting Interests by Dale Krueger	7
❖ Statistical Die Data by Russell Easterbrooks	9
❖ Barbers You Don’t See Anymore by Jack White	12
❖ Grading Tips for Mint State Barber Quarters... by Chris Weeks	14
❖ Let’s Record What We Know by Joe Haney	16
❖ Gibraltar’s Miss Liberty A Tribute... by Thomas Lamarre	19
❖ Barber Bits	21



BCCS PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Winter's near end and the arrival of spring invariably heats up the numismatic hobby. You can read about the health of our Society with Paul and Russell's comments. For anyone keyed into the numismatic press or dealer publications, there is a consistent upbeat message of a strong market, rising prices and limited supply of material.

Recently, Auctions by Bowers and Merena sold an outstanding collection of Barbers. These coins were the property of Charles S. Mamiye, a committed collector who obtained choice collections of dimes, quarters, and half dollars. Many of these coins were hotly contested on the auction floor (meaning mail bidders were not successful). As is often the case, several dealers are currently offering the fruits of their Mamiye purchases to retail customers. In this regard, I received a call on March 13 from a major dealer offering me a high grade Barber dime noted on my wantlist. A little discussion indicated the grade and grading service matched the Mamiye coin and the dealer acknowledged they had bought same at this sale.

Question: How do BCCS members sell coins? For the occasional single coin, this could be disposed of through a local dealer or as part of a deal when one upgrades a date. I'm interested in the situation when one decides to sell a series or collection; this doesn't necessarily apply to the Barbers. What options have individuals actually used, including consignment for sale by auction or outright to a dealer. There are strong positions favoring each approach. I think we all would be interested in a few anonymous lines giving members experiences. Please, please send a short note or postcard to Russell and describe any selling experience you have to share.

It is not too early to consider attending the ANA Convention in Portland, Oregon, that is! We have ample west coast members who should find this site easier to travel to than New York City last year. For those in the midwest or east, Oregon is a scenic delight! If you are considering this, note the BCCS meeting is held on Saturday.

Happy collecting,
Phil Carrigan

BCCS ADVERTISEMENT RATES

¹ / ₈ page	1 issue	\$12	4 issues	\$40
¹ / ₄ page	1 issue	\$20	4 issues	\$70
¹ / ₂ page	1 issue	\$30	4 issues	\$100
1 page	1 issue	\$70	4 issues	\$250
1 page inside front or rear cover	1 issue	\$80	4 issues	\$300
1 page outside rear cover	1 issue	\$125	4 issues	\$400



FROM THE EDITOR

On behalf of our society, I would like to thank each member who renewed their membership, and took the time to make valuable observations concerning the journal. Your input is the reason our society is able to produce such an informative journal.

The membership agreed with the idea of a different color for the journal's cover on a yearly basis, and the silver color was chosen to enhance future coins highlighting the cover.

Regular advertisers will be receiving a note in the coming months to renew your advertising space in the journal for another year. With the steadily growing popularity of Barber coins, what better place to put your ad than a journal catering to Barber enthusiasts.

As Phil noted in his message, the Mamiye collection was recently sold by Bowers and Merena. This collection contained many choice Barber's, including some incredible key date specimens. Bowers and Merena did a stellar job describing these coins, and this catalog {The Boys Town Collection} should be part of your Barber information library. I was fortunate to win a mail bid on a group of AU Barber quarters from this collection.

This issue of the journal features Frank Leone's wonderful photo's of an off center Barber quarter, as well as photo's sent in by Jack Gorby, and Steve Szczerbiak. Interesting articles were submitted by some new face's, along with our regular's, thanks for you efforts.

I am presently making arrangements to have a BCCS meeting at the New England Numismatic Association Convention in Merrimack, N.H. - Sept. 18-19. More details will appear in the Summer journal. I also will be at the Burlington, VT show on April 26th.

Enjoy the spring,
Russell Easterbrooks

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1/29/98

Dear Russell,

Just can't help but compliment you on publishing Randy Holder's letter about his "Circulated State/Eye Appeal" rating scale. I thought that I was the only one who was just about as interested in the record keeping aspect of coin collecting as in the coins themselves! Guess I was wrong. Randy's ideas about assigning a numerical rating sure beats my previous attempts at this. I usually carry my 3 ring binder of Excel spreadsheets with me to coin shows and they have a column that describes the condition. Usually it says "Butt Ugly" or Nice Coin Except for the Bullet Hole". Of course I know these coins need upgrading but what about the rest of the G-4 and G-6's. Thanks Randy for a brand new column on my Excel spreadsheets.

Joe Whittle



THE QUARTER FINALS

By Chip Dean

As the calendar finds us in the new year of 1998, it seemed like a good time to relate a new collecting story.



I had long been fascinated with Barber coinage because of its relatively recent vintage combined with a comparatively low mintages. Starting in 1989 I put together a complete set of dimes in very fine condition. These efforts gave me much pleasure and were not overly expensive, and while not easy from an accessibility viewpoint, were “doable”. I now (1991) turned my focus to quarters. A also upgraded my condition quality to “almost uncirculated”.

This collecting adventure, in that particular state of preservation, presented a challenge from both accessibility and cost perspectives, but resulted in a similarly higher sense of pleasure, satisfaction and accomplishment in both the gathering and completion of same.

I'd like to say that I accomplished this quest in June of 1995 when indeed every year and mint mark had been secured. Alas, my 13-S was MS-63 and not AU and, as all collectors know, my work wasn't over. Despite a vigilant lookout for the elusive 13-S in AU, it wasn't until the fall 1997 Long Beach auction that our paths crossed. I was the only floor bidder and despite a somewhat pricey acquisition bid, lot 5606 was mine.

The coin was raw, described as AU58 and indeed that was consistent with my personal, non-expert assessment. While I prefer raw coins generally, prudence has taught me to submit my more expensive items for grading. This presented somewhat of a dilemma as the coin was nice enough and the rub minuscule enough that there was some chance that it could come back uncirculated. This would leave me without the matched set I'd been patiently waiting for.

I had long since discovered the expertise of Dave Lawrence, and I had been a regular customer of his during my formation of all three series. I had him submit the coin to PCGS and I then settled in to a rather anomalous waiting period... I was hoping the coin *wouldn't* come back with the higher grade. I am happy to report that I recently received the coin back with an AU58 grade and the collection was complete. I readily acknowledge that my small collecting accomplishment pales by comparison to those that we have all read about in the various numismatic publications.

Nonetheless, I was legitimately excited during the “hunt”, even giddy when notable condition rarities came into my possession. On completion I have a sense of real pride in what I've done. In short, I met my goal, I had fun doing it, I learned a lot along the way, and I'm proud of my Barber collection.

I thought I might summarize some of the details as follows:

DATE SEARCH STARTED: 5/3/91

DATE COLLECTION COMPLETED: 9/11/97

COINS COLLECTED BY CALENDAR YEAR:

1991: 14

1992: 36

1993: 6

1994: 8

1995: 9

1996: 0

1997: 1

COINS BY GRADE:

AU50 7

AU53 5

AU55 31

AU58 31

(1901-S AU50; 1913-S AU58; 1896 AU50 – ALL PCGS)

TOTAL COST (71 COINS) \$30,109.00

(3 COINS [1902-S; 1905; 1906-D] Were gifts and not included in cost total)

TOTAL POP. REPORTS (ENTIRE SERIES) IN ALL AU GRADES (50-53-55-58)

(July 97)		(Sept. 94)		
NGC		PCGS		TOTAL
539	+	1279	=	1818

AVG. # OF CERTIFIED COINS PER DATE/MM (74 COINS=24.57

AVG. COST PER COIN (71 COINS) \$424.07

AVG. COST PER COIN (68 COINS – LEAVE OUT BIG 3) = \$228.51

My personal observations on the hardest coins to acquire of course start with the big 3. While I've already described that the 13-S was the hardest for me, I may have just gotten lucky with the 01-S. These two coins in AU are seemingly available about every 5 or so years. This has been generally confirmed by Dave Lawrence and if anything may be too frequent an estimate.

The 11-S; 10-D; 98-S; 09-O, 08-S and 13-D were all challenging, but for me the real sleeper is the 05-O. How many AU 05-O's have any of you seen recently. (NGC has graded 2-58's and PCGS 4-58's and 1-53)

I have special thanks to numismatist/friends Dave Lawrence and Bob Patchin both of whom really make coin collecting fun.

A final reflection, which transcends all collections and collectors: what (if any) is the responsibility of a collector (having completed his or her collection) to recirculate those coins into numismatic channels, so that others who follow may experience the same joy that causes me to write and ostensibly you, the reader, to read articles like this one. ♦



HARRY LAIBSTAIN RARE COINS

Attending Major Coin Conventions

- ★ Free Inventory List With Descriptions
- ★ Large, Diverse Inventory
- ★ Very Competitive Buy Prices – Quick Checks

BUYING BETTER BARBERS DIMS – QUARTERS – HALVES

- ★ Commemoratives – Dollars – Gold – Type

ALSO: Collector Series Coins like:

Barbers, Walkers, Buffalos, Mercury Dimes, SLQ & More...

Call Us At 1-800-869-1869
Want Lists Accepted – Speak to John

11817 Canon Blvd, Suite 202
Newport News, VA 23606
Fax: (804) 873-1977 • CoinNet VA16
E-mail: www.hlrc.com

MY COLLECTING INTERESTS

By Dale Krueger

My collecting history began in the late sixties when I was attending grade school on an Army base in Germany. Actually I had been accumulating something resembling a rock collection even prior to that. But around that time, there was a new collecting direction, and I remember a distinct choice had to be made – a choice between coins and stamps. My father recommended coins but I originally leaned toward stamps only because of the immense quantity of free samples given to me by some of my father's friends.

The next few years found me in Fort Bliss, Texas where I continued to accumulate an unorganized mass of stamps along with the primitive beginnings of a Jefferson nickel collection pulled from circulation, which was kept in date sequence lying in a desk drawer.

I remember one scheme I hatched involving the school milk machine. The milk cartons were five cents each and by putting in a dime there was a chance you could end up with a rare date nickel from the forties as change.

Sometime around 1971, a thirsty, desperate schoolmate offered a Mercury dime for the can of grapefruit juice I had bought with my lunch. I was soon scampering to the school library where a look in an out of date coin book informed me that my piece was worth about fifteen cents or so. That simple coin, however immediately sparked my interest and I began to read everything I could about coins.

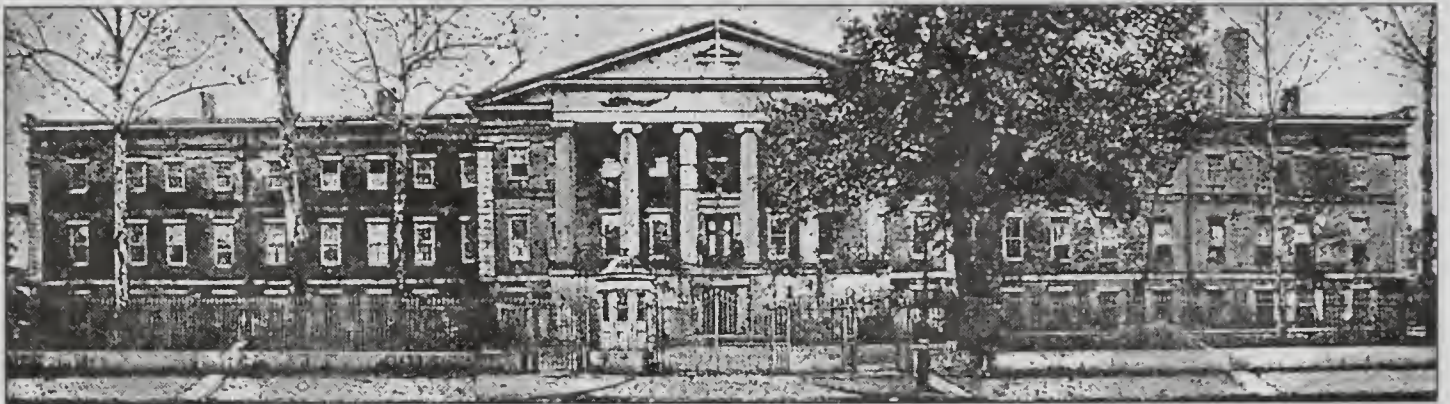
Around that time, stamps were losing their appeal. I couldn't really tell what I had or what it was worth. The last straw was when I discovered my stamps had congealed into a single mass of inseparable debris – my first experience with improper storage.

There was a coin shop in Ft. Bliss that I began to frequent, spending my feeble income earned selling spudnuts and genuine astro turf doormats door to door. Through the mid-seventies I tried to put together sets of buffalo nickels, mercury dimes, Roosevelt dimes, Jefferson nickels and Lincoln cents. I also spent numerous hours going through hundreds of rolls of cents and nickels, and half dollars looking for 40% silver Kennedys. My interest then shifted from numismatics until 1989. I was then introduced to the wonders of slabbed coins. (What timing! Fortunately I only bought a few pieces at the market top).

In 1990, as I toyed with the idea of putting together a set of Standing Liberty quarters, a dealer called me and set in motion a shift that drives my collecting direction to this day. He offered, and I purchased, an 1896-S Barber Quarter in MS-64 with incredible bulls-eye toning. A day before I had no interest in Barbers, suddenly, I was a Barberian! The David Lawrence Barber Quarter book and the start up of the BCCS spurred my interest and involvement with Barbers.

At this time I need just seven quarters to complete the set. It is amazing how quickly I left the ranks of the unenlightened collectors who do not appreciate the beauty and supremacy of Barber coinage – but there's always hope for anyone who takes a real, non biased look at these coins.

In a future article I will bring to light recently discovered, long hidden documents concerning a vast, left wing conspiracy involving Theodore Roosevelt and Augustus St. Gaudens. ❖



UNITED STATES MINT AT NEW ORLEANS, LA.

SUMMIT RARE COINS

CHRIS NAPOLITANO
P.O. Box 1345
MINNETONKA, MN 55345
(612) 933-0668

SPECIALIZING IN CHOICE & RARE U.S. COINAGE FOR
COLLECTOR AND INVESTOR PORTFOLIOS.

STATISTICAL DIE DATA

By Russell Easterbrooks

With varieties becoming more and more popular in today's numismatic market place, information involving dies and their use is invaluable. United States mint reports from 1906-15 supply statistical data highlighting die use among the three Barber denominations.

During the Barber era, all the dies were made at the Philadelphia mint and shipped in limited numbers to the branch mints. One example of this can be seen as the new mint in Denver began coining operations. The mint report ending the fiscal year of June 30, 1906 documents that; 30 Barber half dollar, 30 Barber quarter, and 30 Barber dime dies were sent to the Denver mint. Beginning in February and ending on June 30, 1906 the Denver facility struck, 128,000 halves, 196,000 quarters and 560,000 dimes. These limited striking figures seems to lend some evidence to Walter Breen's assumption that early coins struck at the Denver mint may be described as "branch mint proofs".

The following fiscal year ending June 30, 1907, the Philadelphia mint sent staggering amounts of dies to the Denver mint. The die inventory was as follows; Barber dimes 120 dies, Barber quarters 122 dies, and Barber halves a whopping 254 dies! Many of these dies were undoubtedly extra reverse dies for use during the coming years and dies dated 1907. We see an example of reverse dies on hand during 1903 and 1905 as the San Francisco mint continued using dime reverse dies, after the reverse design had been modified in 1901. Denver's coining operations exploded during the remaining 6 months of 1906 to include; 3,900,000 halves, 3,084,000 quarters, and 3,500,000 dimes struck!

During the calendar year of 1907, the mint lists the total number of obverse and reverse dies used by all the mints as follows; Barber half dollars, 323, Barber quarter dollars, 259, and the Barber dime, 374. The total mintage of all the mints is added and then divided by the number of dies for each denomination. This displays the following average die life; Barber half 36,071 per die, Barber quarter 60,218 per die, and the Barber dime 92,345 per die. This information unfortunately lumps the obverse and reverse dies together. Should an obverse die be replaced after striking 36,071 halves, the reverse die may remain in use until the obverse die fails again. By 1915 the mint's report had broken down die survival rate by obverse and reverse dies as well as by mints. The following statistic's are from the calendar year 1914. Average pieces struck per die from the mint at Philadelphia; half dollar, obverse 70,734 reverse 70,734, quarters, obverse 150,800 reverse 175,254, dimes, obverse 164,421 reverse 152,983. The San Francisco mint's average pieces struck per die included; half dollar, obverse 71,598 reverse 107,398, quarters, obverse 74,047, reverse 74,047, dimes, obverse 212,431 reverse 193,119. The Denver mint's average strikes per die; quarters obverse 67,244 reverse 77,862, dimes obverse 102,134 reverse 102,134.

The mint's research went a step farther in the 1908 report by listing the highest and lowest number of pieces struck by a single die. This shows that while some dies were very durable, others failed quickly. The highest number of Barber halves struck by a single die was 468,850 from an obverse die. The lowest was 3,000 by a reverse die. The highest number of Barber quarters struck by a single die was 660,352 from a reverse die. The lowest was 6,780 also by a reverse die. The highest number of Barber dimes struck by a single die was 515,476 from an obverse die. Interestingly, the lowest was only 2,589 by both an obverse and a reverse die! It is probable that these two dies failed together, given they struck the same number of coins. Limited numbers of dies sent to the various branch mints may have influenced coiners to adjust the minting apparatus reducing pressure on the dies, especially if a number of dies had failed and new dies had not yet arrived. This may in part explain the notoriously weakly struck 1907-O dime and other weakly struck coins.

Many die "signatures" are identifiable as cracks or other imperfections, which greatly assist researchers in understanding die use. One of the more spectacular of these can be seen on 1907 dimes from each mint! First discovered by Karl Schuppenhaues, the zero punch date used on the master hub display's a nick. This nick appears in greater or lesser degree, contingent upon die wear at about 9:00 O'clock. Walter Breen does not mention this defect, however I am yet to see a regular issue 1907 dime without this nick. This punch must have been discarded, because it does not appear after 1907.

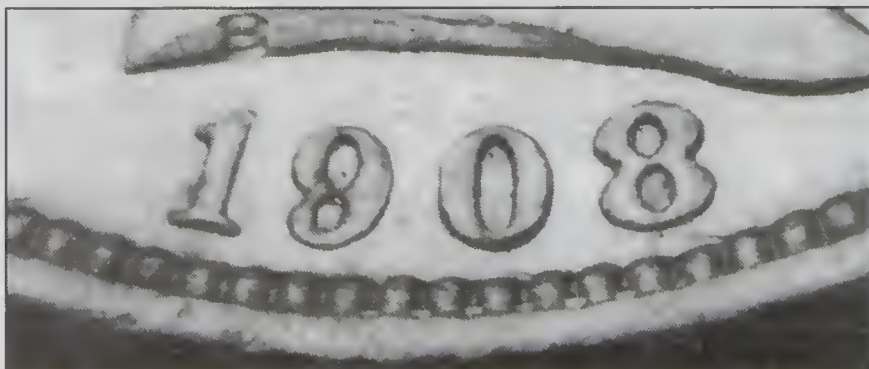


Above: B&B #46-5: Close up of 8 from coin in Photo #4, showing possible 7 underneath.

Right: B&B #46-4: 1908-O multiple-punched date - possible 8/7 overdate?

The following photo's by J.T. Stanton appeared in 1996 revealing the possibility of an underlying 7 on this 1908-O dime. This is extremely interesting, however the zero does not show the before mentioned nick. It is possible the entire data was removed and repunched, instead of just the removal of the 7. More study of additional coins displaying these characteristics needs to confirm an overdate.

Continue searching your collections for interesting "signatures", after all it's just part of what makes coin collecting enjoyable.



BUYING BARBER DIMES

Fine to AU

- Singles
- Sets
- Accumulations



Please Write or Call Me!

Kevin Lonergan
Box 4234
Hamden, CT 06514
Phone: 203-281-9638

BARBERS YOU DON'T SEE ANYMORE

By Jack White

Most Barber collectors are aware that the majority of dates in all three silver series are difficult to find in any grade above "very good". This knowledge generally comes only with experience. The first twenty years that I collected United States coins, I had no special interest in Barbers. I assumed they were readily available in any condition. It wasn't until I took a special interest in them that I learned differently.

Most collectors know, few Barbers from any of the series are available in a wide assortment of grades. "Goods" and About Goods" are nearly always available in all but the rarest of dates. Over the past few months however, certain Barbers are becoming extremely hard to locate in grades as low as "Good".

One of these coins is the 1897-S quarter. With a wholesale price of nine dollars, this coin should be available almost always. The exact opposite is the case, in my experience. I have seen one coin in the last eight months, and that was at a national show. This coin has also been absent from price lists as well, and is very difficult to find in any grade above VG. This quarter has the sixth lowest mintage in the series and is more difficult than the 1913 and 1914-S which have lower mintages. Look for prices to move up soon.

Another Barber which fits the same situation is the 1900-O dime. This date is very difficult to locate in the mid grades, and doesn't seem to be available in the lower grades. The wholesale price has moved up recently, ten percent in "Good". Like most semi-key Barber dimes prices have risen in recent years, mostly in the mid grades. Expect "Good" and "Very Good" levels to rise substantially, possibly doubling in the future.

A third Barber coin which doesn't seem to be available any longer is the 1905 micro "O" dime. Like the two previously mentioned coins, this is another Barber which was available in lower grades a few years ago – but not anymore! This major variety, perhaps the best known variety in all Barber series, is now listed in both "Coin World" and the "Red Book". These listings, as well as others, have no doubt been a factor in the availability of this dime in recent times. I'd also like to think our society's popularity has had something to do with this coin's availability. The retail price of this coin is near the twenty dollar level, even at the "Good" grade. Surprisingly, trend prices in the mid grades have leveled off, even dropping slightly during the recent years. Apparently mid grade micro "O" dimes have surfaced recently, due to the listing of this variety in popular price guides. ❖

Barber Halves Wanted

AU or mint state – no proofs
prefer certified P.C.G.S. or N.G.C.
B.C.C.S. member #908 – not a dealer

* 1896-O

1897-O

1897-S

* 1898-O

1899-O

* 1900-O

* 1902-S

* 1903-P

* 1904-S

1905-O

1906-O

1914-P

** = prefer mint state – will accept in AU*

Best time – Call mornings or evenings.

In and out throughout rest of day.

Request 10 day return privilege.

J. Tom Flenniken

1. 209-224-2665 If no answer call 2nd number

2. 870-353-6153

THE JOURNAL NEEDS YOUR ARTICLES!

If you've got some information to share with our Society,
we'd like to publish it. Our Society needs your input!
Send your articles and information for the Barber Bits section, to;
Russell at the address, on page one.

DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT ISSUE IS JUNE 15th

GRADING TIPS FOR MINT STATE BARBER QUARTERS AND HALVES

By Chris Weeks

There are several factors involved in grading mint state coins. Luster, marks, strike, and eye appeal are all well known considerations. Also, the ability to tell high grade AU pieces from true uncirculated coins is important, when one is paying for a “new” coin. This article will discuss these ideas as they apply to the Barber quarters and halves.

Luster is the most important factor in grading a MS coin. No matter how well struck and mark free a coin may be, it must show strong luster in order to attain the MS 63 grade or higher. A piece should not be dull, or have the overdipped or “washed out” look. This is also described as the “all-at-once,” all over, “reflective” look. As a dealer friend stated, such coins have a “melted” appearance. Luster should either be frosty, with cartwheel movement under a light, or satin, with some movement, but more of a soft glow, like silver “snow”.

Barber quarter and halves acquire marks in ways similar to other “bust” coins like Franklin halves and Morgan dollars. The part most prone to marks is the entire facial area, especially the cheek, jaw, and the neck. Bagmarks, scratches, and hairlines in the field in front of the face also reduce the grade. Marks on the date numerals are also bad. Liberty’s cheek also sometimes shows slide marks from plastic album inserts, or hairlines from wiping.

The reverses usually have less marks or are almost mark free. This is due to the many design elements which allowed other coins to “roll over” the designs without as much damage to the fields. Also, marks acquired, usually by the eagle, are hidden better by the feather detail. The most obvious damage is usually to the shield.

The obverse of these coins has striking weakness, when present, on the upper hair below Liberty, the cheek, jaw area, and some of the lower wreath leaves, especially the two leaves below L in liberty. However, this is only noticeable on the hair above the forehead and the wreath leaves. This is because these two are detailed areas.

All coins are generally weakly struck at the place where the void, or space, between the two dies is the greatest. The parts of the reverse corresponding to the areas outlined above are the eagle’s head, neck feathers, shield, and part of the wing adjacent to the shield, under, “UN” of Unum. Also the leg feathers, the central tail feather, as well as the claw holding the arrows, and the arrow butts. When weakness is present here, it is more noticeable because there are more intricate details present.

Eye appeal is a combination of luster, marks, strike, plus toning and color. Do not buy a coin if your first impression of it is not good. That first look, and your instinct and knowledge, is all you need. Do not buy dark, spotted, stained, or streaky coins. Toning should be light or medium, and preferably even.

But peripheral toning is also good, as is concentric circles ("target" or "bullseye" toning). Actually, any type toning is O.K. as long as it is original, not dark colors like black or dark gray, streaky, or striped.

To be sure a coin is uncirculated, look for mint luster or frost on its highest points. For the Barber coins, check to see if luster "rolls" or moves on the cheek, hair above the forehead, and open fields. On the reverse, do the same for the eagle's upper head (above eye). A glass may be required here. Also check the feather in center of tail, and the wing tips. Some of these devices may be weakly struck, but luster should be intact upon them. The rim is most important to check in this regard. It should have luster, and a lack of nicks and hairlike scratches from circulation.

A note of caution here. Some coins have slight friction or "rub" from other coins, also on the high points. The surface frost may be slightly abraded or scuffed, but not dulled or off color, as with wear. When a high point has rub from circulation, it turns from silver color to light gray, with interrupted luster. Of course, coins with obvious friction from rolls or bags seldom grade above MS 63.

Grading mint state Barber coins requires knowledge and experience. It requires judgement to combine the grading criteria, and an understanding of the weights generally assigned to the three main determinants of the grade.



Heritage:

The World's Largest Rare Coin Dealer Should Be Your Full-Service Coin Dealer!

Whether you are buying or selling, our Numismatists stand ready to help YOU.



With annual sales exceeding \$100 million, we want to spend \$2,000,000 every week.

We have customers lined up for your rare coins, so we can afford to pay top price!

We offer a free evaluation, and 24-hour turn around for most collections.

We also offer complete Want List Services.

Call us today at 1-800 US COINS (872-6467).



Heritage is the world's leading numismatic auction house, with a packed schedule of upcoming sales.

HNAI brings your coins to the buyers, scheduling our sales in conjunction with major numismatic shows.

We are the Official Auctioneer for the ANA, the Long Beach Coin Expo, and Central States -- all through 1999!

Contact Bob Merrill (ext. 270) or Leo Frese (ext. 294) at 1-800 US COINS.

Voice-mail messages can be left 24 hours.

LET'S RECORD WHAT WE KNOW

By Joe Haney

In the last journal I promised, some of you might say threatened, to do a follow up article on assembling and recording known varieties so everyone could tell at a glance if a newly found variety is truly that.

Well here I am but I must say I come with hat in hand because I need help. The only way this information is going to be put together is with the aid of a computer and some one to program it. I would like to do this myself but I must admit I am a computer illiterate. Sure I have a real nice computer (GATEWAY 2000) but can lay title to nothing else but that. Money was able to buy the machine but not the knowledge to operate it.

I can remember my grandfather saying 'you young whippersnappers have a lot to learn'. Well I believe it is going to have to be you young whippersnappers that lead the way in this computer age. I used to wonder what the younger generation was getting out of sitting in front of a computer for hours playing games. Now I know. You were learning how to operate the darn thing whether you knew it or not. And most of you got quite good at it. Now it is time to put that knowledge to work. I want to be able to put a coin on my scanner, push the mouse around, be able to enter it into my computer, and send that information to a central computer that will tell just what I have. It will show me every known repunched date of the year I have entered, so I can see if I have truly found a new variety. If it is, the person in charge of the information will record it, give it a variety number, and make a note of my name and date of submission. In the future the computer generated number should take precedence over all known references, with that reference being mentioned.

I have been photographing coins for some time now and I must say I am satisfied with the results I get. I use a single reflex camera mounted on a Swift Zoom-stereo M880 Microscope to blow up what I want to show. No special lighting other than what is built into the scope is used. Easy? To me very much so. Practical? For one's own use, I guess so. But the draw backs are many. First of all a minimum of 24 pictures must be taken. Unless you want to waste a whole roll of film for one picture. The cost is another factor. And it could be significant if a good many coins need to be recorded. Then there is the time factor. Probably the most important of all. Shooting directly into a computer with a digital camera or through a scanner lets you see immediately what you have captured. Using convention photography, it probably would take a minimum of two weeks to go from original shot to finished print before you even know if your shots are in focus.

I have tried both scanner and digital work with no success at all. The scanner can not be blown up without losing clarity. The digital loses resolution.

Well, there you are. How about it you young whippersnappers, put your games away for a little bit and show us old fogies what to do. I know deep down

this is going to lead to an explosion in the coin hobby just as the computer is starting to do for the buying and selling of coins. The amount of varieties gleaned from collectors all over the country is going to astound a lot of people and give the hobby the shot in the arm it needs. ❖

BOB'S SQUARE DEAL ON ROUND BARBER COINS

We Specialize In Barber Coinage In Grades AG Through MS
And Maintain An Extensive Stock.

WE BUY BARBER COINS.

Free Price List on Request.

Robert Winkle

Post Office Drawer 6127

ANA 50230

Newport News, VA 23606

VNA 75

757-596-3183

I HAVE THE COLLECTOR COINS YOU NEED.

SEND FOR MY LATEST PRICE LISTING.

WANT lists gladly ACCEPTED.



LARRY BRIGGS RARE COINS

P.O. Box 187

LIMA, OH 45802

HOURS: M-F 10-6 EST

e-mail: lbrc@alpha.wcoil.com

888-228-LBRC

419-228-2285 or

419-228-3831

Fax: 419-228-0137

*** FOR SALE ***

Barber Keys

1895-O Dime, VG-8, well struck, nice surfaces \$270.00

1913-S Quarter, VG-8 ANACS, very well struck, nice \$650.00

Take both for \$900.00

10 day return privilege, checks must clear, add \$3.00 postage

Larry Carr

4223 Miller Road

Sterling, MI 48659

Phone: 517-654-2259 evenings

What Can I Do For You?

With total confidentiality I will tailor my services to fit your needs, and:

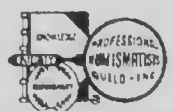
- Assist in the formation and location of any U.S. coin or currency collection.
- Counsel collectors, dealers and corporations on any aspect of the numismatic business or hobby
- Act as personal representative for any numismatic transaction at a maximum commission of 10%
- Appraise collections or individual pieces on an hourly basis
- Assist in the ORDERLY disposition of current holdings at current values

Outstanding references available from collectors, investors, dealers and institutions from all regions of the country. Inquiries invited from qualified and serious individuals, businesses and institutions by letter or telephone. Or, stop at my table at any of the major shows. I have a table at all of them!

Julian M. Leidman

940 Wayne Ave.
Silver Springs, MD 20910
(301) 585-8467

**ANA Life
Member**



GIBRALTAR'S MISS LIBERTY A TRIBUTE TO BARBER'S ETERNAL DESIGN

By Thomas Lamarre

From the Pobjoy Mint comes an offering of gold and silver crowns using the same portrait of Miss Liberty that appeared on United States dimes, quarters and half dollars from 1892 to 1916.

Struck on behalf of Gibraltar, a British dependency on Spain's southern coast (population 30,000), the Liberty USA crown is a nod to chief engraver Charles E. Barber's Liberty Head design.

The crown is one of four non-circulating coins in the new Classical Heads series. The other three coins picture Cleopatra, Nefertiti and Europa.

Sounding somewhat like a soap opera, an ad for the series and other Pobjoy Mint issues note that Cleopatra is "famed for her beauty and charm as well as her relationship with Julius Caesar and Mark Anthony."

Nerfetiti is described as the "highly attractive queen of Egypt... forever symbolizing the beauty of women." Europa, "famed near and far for her great beauty, was carried off by Zeus (disguised as a white bull of all things) to the island of Crete."

So, all in all, Barber's Liberty Head is in some pretty impressive company, notwithstanding the criticism it was subjected to upon its debut in January 1892. W.T.R. Marvin wrote in the *American Journal of Numismatics*: "The general effect (of the new Barber design) is pleasing; of the three the dime is to many the most attractive piece. The head of Liberty is dignified; but although the silly story has been started that the profile is that of a 'reigning belle' of New York, she could hardly be called a beauty.

"There is suggestion, difficult to define, yet perceptible, of the classic heads on some of the Roman coins, and a much stronger suggestion of the head on the French francs of 1871 and onward.

"But there is a fullness in the upper lip which detracts from the expression, and a slight swelling of the back of the neck that led one irreverent critic to remark 'she is going to have a boil,' and another to say 'the throat is that of the gladiator.'"

In a similar vein, while not specifically mentioning Barber's Liberty Head design, the Pobjoy Mint's ad for the new Gibraltar issues states, "The figure of Liberty, often shown on American coins, was based on the classical allegory of Libertas, found on Roman imperial coins."

In the United States, the Barber series produced several notable rarities, among them the 1894-S dime, and to a lesser extent, the 1895 O dime and 1896 S, 1901 S and 1913 S quarters. However, the more common dates were overlooked for decades after the Liberty Head design was discontinued.

As recently as the 1960s, Barber coins were ignored by the majority of collectors. Lawrence Block wrote in the February 1966 issue of the *Whitman*

Numismatic Journal, "Dealers were largely uninterested in purchasing (Barber coins), the army of new collectors did not bother with them and the new corps of investors ignored them entirely."

Today the situation is far different, and Liberty Head dimes, quarters and half dollars have many fans.

Cornelius Vermeule writes in *Numismatic Art in America*, "Of all American coins long in circulation, no series has stood the wearing demands of modern coinage so well as the half dollar, quarter and dime developed by the chief engraver at Philadelphia."

It is, according to Vermeule, a "durable design of monumental validity."

Ken Bressett, author of *Collectible American Coins*, cites the Barber dime as the most attractive of the three denominations of Liberty Head coins. It is also the easiest to find in higher grades.

Barber quarters and half dollars, on the other hand, have an extremely low survival rate in grades better than Very Good.

Although there are specialists who enjoy assembling sets of Barber coins by date and mint mark (or, at least, significant date runs), many collectors are satisfied to acquire a single example of each denomination for a type set. Proofs are most desirable, but expensive.



Writing in a section of the Mint Director's annual report in the 1890s, Charles Barber explained that the process used to strike proofs was "reserved for the most artistic and coinage and medals."

Admirers of Barber's Liberty Head design will be pleased to note that Gibraltar's "Liberty USA" crowns are available exclusively as proofs.

The concept of Liberty Head silver and gold crowns is not as far-fetched as it might seem.

At the time the Barber dime, quarter and half dollar were released, a Barber silver dollar was also widely anticipated, but failed to materialize. Gibraltar's silver "Liberty USA" crown in particular may be the next best thing. ❖

Editor's Note: This article is reprinted from the Canadian Coin News, November 4th 1997.



1895-O Quarter 5/5. From Jack Gorby



1908-O Quarter, with strong top of 8 in denticles. From Steve Szczerbiak



Mint state 1888 nickel with the second 8 tripled and light doubling on the profile. From Steve Szczerbiak



1892 Quarter Type 2. Notice the 1 is nicely repunched and there is a fracture at the base of the neck. Also from Steve Szczerbiak

Jack White has noticed 1st year Barbers are on the move! the 1892 dime is up over 10% in good at the wholesale level over the past eight months. The 1892-S dime is up 20% in the same grade. In quarters the 1892-O is up 7% in very good over the same period. The 1892-S is up slightly in very good and very fine, however fine is up 17%. Two half dollars have also had significant increases, the 1892 is up 21% in good! The 1892-O half is up 13% in fine.

A recent "Coinage" magazine article on the year 1900 sent to me by Jack White states in part:

The author speculates that perhaps a few 1894-S dimes were lost in the earthquake/fire of 1906. It seems that wealthy collectors' homes were destroyed which may have contained examples of this rarity.



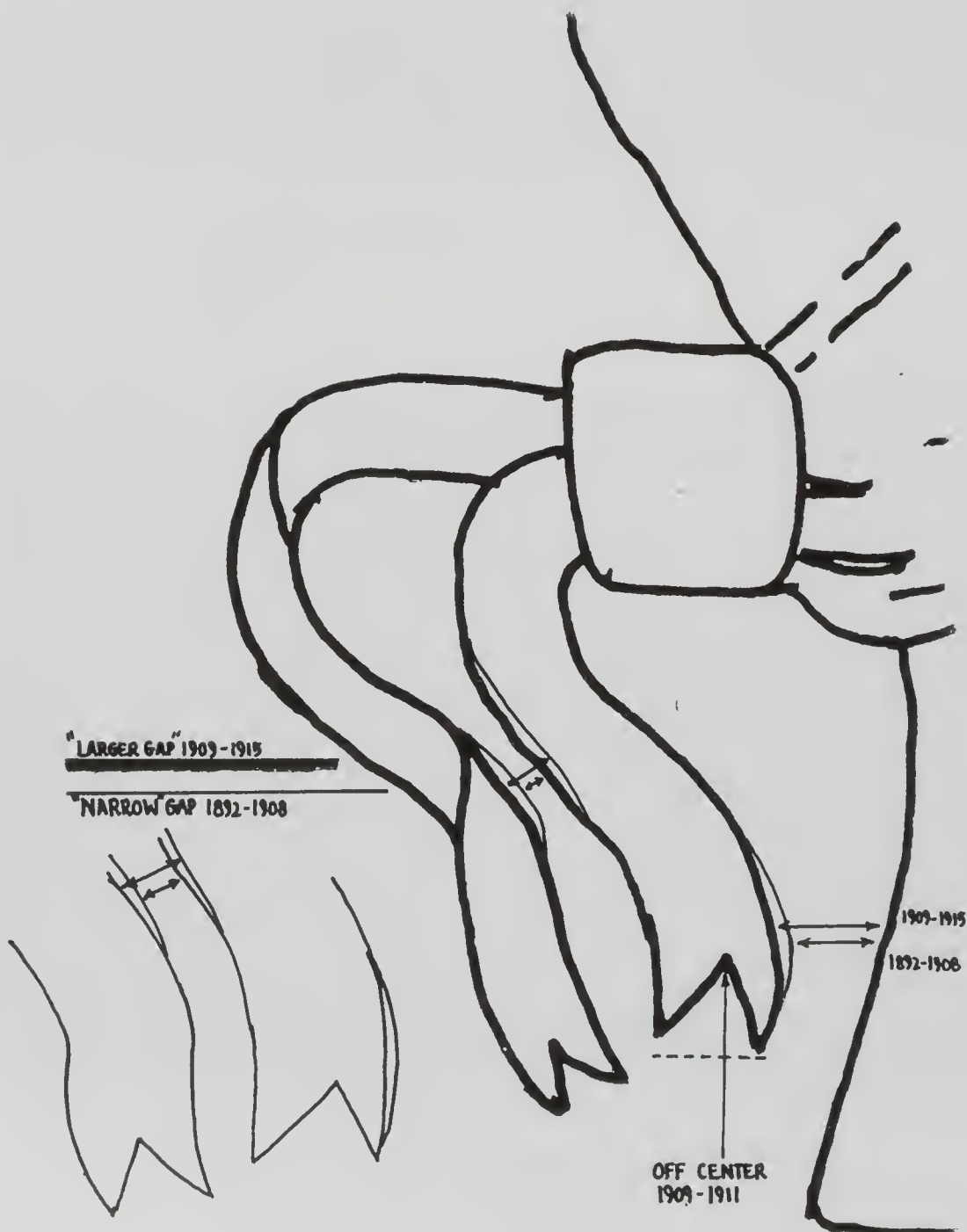
*Looking up California street, San Francisco, Cal.,
after the earthquake and fire, April 18, 1906.*

A RIBBON CHANGE IN 1909

By Russell Easterbrooks

Chris Weeks informative article; "A New Obverse Hub in 1909", in the Summer 1997 journal, has brought quite a bit of mail. It seems many Barber collectors are looking at their collections and noticing the differences Chris observed.

David Lund supplied this excellent drawing displaying the pre 1909 ribbon, and the changes made during that year. Notice the off center notch in the right ribbon caused by the changes, which appears to have been corrected in 1911. I examined a nice AU 1909 half sent to me by a member which shows the re-cutting plainly, as illustrated in the drawing. This appears to be an interesting die change that deserves more notoriety.



“QUALITY BARBERS FROM JACK BEYMER”



*Call or write us today for
the coins you need.*

Jack H. Beymer

Phone: 707-544-1621

737 West Coddington Center

Santa Rosa, CA 95401

Store Hours: 10 AM to 6 PM Mon-Sat

WE BUY AND SELL BARBER HALVES • QUARTERS • DIMES

One of America's leading coin dealers and brokers for rare coin investment programs offers a sizable assortment of hard-to-find Halves, Quarters and Dimes to Barber collectors seeking quality materials. We are always in the market to buy whatever Barber coins you have to sell. Write or phone us your descriptions.

SEND US YOUR WANT LISTS

Our experienced staff of professional numismatists attend every major coin show, sale and auction. We monitor the coin teletype on a daily basis. Let us help you find the coins you seek.

HONESTY • EXPERIENCE • INTEGRITY

MEMBER: NGC • PCGS • ANA



350 CENTERVILLE ROAD • LANCASTER, PA 17601

(717) 299 - 1211